



915



BREACH

BREACH BIRTH

Captain Atom stands as proof positive of the power of atomic fission. The nuclear-powered hero has not only existed in multiple forms as different incarnations of the same character, but other projects have split off from the good captain. The first was *Alan Moore & Dave Gibbons' Watchmen*, which first came into existence as a project involving the Charlton heroes—including the aforementioned Captain Atom. Of course, *Watchmen* went on to generate quite a reaction on its own...

And now, Captain Atom has split again; the result is a new hero making his debut in the DC Universe... and he's the creation of a writer who's also making his debut in the DC Universe!

The character's name is Breach... the writer's name is Bob Harras... and perhaps a little background would make all this somewhat clearer.

Harras is best known as the editor-in-chief of Marvel Comics during the 1990s. Once he left Marvel, he stepped out of the comics spotlight... but that doesn't mean that he left comics entirely. "I've kept my hand in comics even while working on projects outside the business—I edited a few titles for WildStorm and have another one, *Twilight Experiment* by Jimmy Palmiotti, Justin Gray, & Juan Santacruz, coming out early next year. So, I don't feel I ever really left!"

While he remained active as an editor, Harras hadn't really considered returning to comics as a writer until DC approached him with a proposal for a character revamp. "Dan DiDio and Matt Idelson called me and asked if I'd be interested in re-conceptualizing Captain Atom for a new launch," Harras told CSN. "As I was relatively unfamiliar with the character—I knew what he looked like, but that was about it—I thought it might be an interesting thing to try out."

So Harras went to work on his revamp of the classic character originally co-created by *Steve Ditko* for Charlton Comics back in the late 1950s. At what point did he and DC choose to re-mold a Captain Atom reboot into an all-new character? "It was after both Dan and Paul Levitz read the pitch. I had

really only kept the name 'Captain Atom' in the pitch and gone my own way, so I figured they would very nicely turn it down. I was a little stunned that they liked it enough to launch it as a new character!"

As Harras said, there were relatively few aspects of the old Captain Atom evident in his reboot—but once he got the green light to develop the character as a new hero, virtually all elements of Captain Atom were cast aside. "They're totally different concepts now—I think the only similarity now is that both characters find out they've lost twenty-odd years of their lives in cold storage."

Breach is Major Tim Zanetti, an officer whose career nearly cost him everything. Now he's back, having lost decades of his life and most of his humanity—and he's struggling to rediscover both. So how does Breach balance his life as a military officer and his life as a superhero? "He doesn't juggle; he finds that it is his duty as a soldier to use his new abilities—he finds that he is very much considered a human weapon, so he isn't given the choice. He discovers that humanity is about to embark on a shadow war, and he may be our only hope. His abilities are evolving—but one of their ugliest manifestations is that he causes extreme cellular damage to any person he touches, so he has to be kept in isolation a lot of the time. Breach doesn't consider himself a superhero—certainly not after learning that his touch can kill—just a guy who has had a traumatic experience thrust upon him that changes his life."

"I'm always fascinated by the human cost of power... by the sacrifices the type of power depicted in superhero comics demands of people," Harras explained. "I think that idea of conflict was ingrained in my mind by *Stan Lee*: for every upside with these incredible characters called superheroes, there has to be a downside that links them to humanity."

"I want to explore what is like to be given incredible powers—a chance, perhaps, to save humanity—but at the expense of almost everything else in life, including quite possibly, your own sense of self. What goes through a



character's mind when he realizes the power he wields is destroying his soul—and yet, to refuse to use those powers could lead to a catastrophe of epic proportions?"

Astute readers might recall that Breach's civilian name was originally given as Tim Porter, what led to the change? "We never liked any of his earlier last names, Porter or Adams—which was a play, I think, on Captain Atom. They sounded so bland, and *Marcos Martin*, Matt and I wanted him to reflect a more diverse world."

Zanetti may not be too happy with his newfound abilities, but his employers have a different view. "The military wants him to have these powers: they are pivotal to their plans. In a lot of ways, Tim is a pawn in an ongoing struggle that readers will see develop over time. In desperate times, men do desperate things—and the creation of Breach may be the result of that. The only thing is, even the most carefully planned of strategies can backfire and create entirely new threats."

Breach's position in the DC Universe is somewhat problematic; from the very beginning, it's clear that he's not a typical superhero. Does that create any conflicts between Breach and other DC heroes? "Yes, it does. He meets with members of the JLA very early in the series—but it doesn't exactly mean they end up as buddies. He certainly isn't invited to join... I think characters like Superman are going to be surprised by the reaction they're going to get from Breach. Let's just say that both parties will approach the other with caution in the future."

On a super-powered scale, how does Breach stand compared to the Man of Steel? "That's a tough one. I'd say if Superman is a ten, Breach is a five—but with bursts of eight or so." But as far as super-powers are concerned, eight is more than enough!

Don't look for Breach to become a grim and gritty anti-hero. "Essentially, this will be a story of good people in a really bad situation and the choices they make. You might agree with some of those choices, and you may not, but you will understand why they're being made."

Will Breach become involved with other superheroes in upcoming storylines? "He'll meet other characters as time goes on, I'm sure—but other than a few members of the JLA, nothing is planned. Right now, Breach is kept in a military installation, away from humanity, so no daytrips to Metropolis for him! Events that unfold in *Breach* would make it unbelievable if other heroes did not get involved, though."

Harras admits that sometimes he's still a little surprised that he's ended up writing for DC after years bouncing around in the Marvelverse. Has he become a DCU expert in preparation for his new gig? "Well, I know that Krypton exploded... is that enough?"

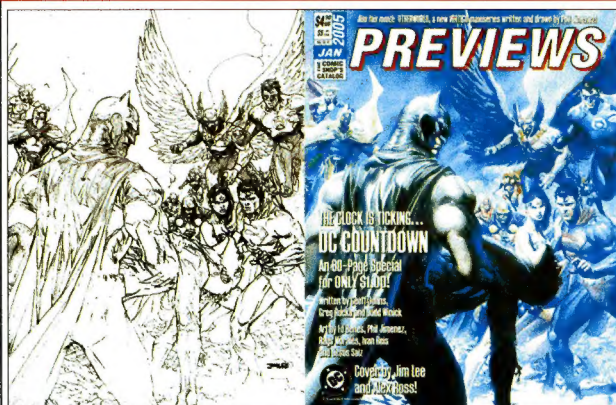
Harras won't deny that he's interested in trying his hand at other DC characters, but he's not pushing things. "I think they want to see how I handle *Breach* first, before they let me go romping through the DCU!"

Breach #1, a \$2.95 forty-page comic by Bob Harras, Marcos Martin, & Alvaro Lopez, is slated for January 5th release. Subsequent thirty-two-page issues will be priced at \$2.50.

BY CLIFF BIGGERS



Courtesy your friendly neighborhood comics outlet!



Produced by **Comic Shop News** in cooperation with **Matt Brady** and **newsarama.com**

COUNTING DOWN FOR CLUES

Elsewhere in this issue of CSN, we talk about the upcoming *DC Countdown* comic, an eighty-page spectacular that paves the way for a major event in the DCU this year. **Jim Lee**, who co-created the DCU, did the pencil art, while **Alex Ross** did the finished painting; it's their second collaboration, the first being a Superman/Batman image that the two produced for *Wizard* last summer, talked a little bit about the book and the process of preparing the cover.

"Been having to keep this under my hat for some time now," Lee said on his weblog. "Yep, the second cover that I collaborated on with Mr. Alex Ross and once again, he delivers the goodies. I already like how the fans are speculating who Batman is holding...but good luck."

"This puppy has a million things built-in to throw you off. (Can't make it that obvious 'duh'). Unfortunately the original was *gigantic* and had to scan it in two parts. Our studio scanner was on the friz so the lower half did not capture the gray tones for some reason."

"Still, was fun to draw so many DC heroes assembled on one piece and of course, Alex shines an incredible light onto it all. Very ethereal. I like how he improved upon Green Lantern and Hawkman the best."

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When asked if he approached a piece any differently when he knew that Ross would supply the finished painting over his linework, Lee replied, "Yes, very much so. For one, I try and pencil lighter and with less graphite in general, 'cause it is more difficult for Alex to work on waxy, pencil buildup. Also, it's pointless for me to crosshatch much—I put down lines to indicate form and volume and use the side of the pencil more to create gray values. When I work with Scott Williams, all side-of-the-pencil grays are inked pure black."

Both Lee and DC remain mum on just who it is that Batman is carrying, or on any further storyline details for this big-event book. CSN will keep you posted with any further clues as they develop...

THE MORA, THE SCARIER

With... er, which book is the premier Image project from Paul Harmon? *Mora*, that's which book! *Mora* #1, a February release from Image, kicks off Harmon's bimonthly ongoing series. Harmon told CSN that *Mora* is "the life story of the most powerful witch in history. I wanted to explore the process of becoming a witch—and in doing so, I really changed what the witch is for my series. In the series, the witch is at the top of the fantasy creature 'food chain', so to speak. All that is the vehicle for many themes I will explore; one key theme is the nature of power. Mora will become very powerful, and how that power changes her and those around her will be very interesting. Some things all the might in the world can't change and very often those things are very



precious to us, this will be a problem for most of my characters."

From that description, it's clear that Mora isn't a "good little witch, so to speak. Is there a dark edge to the book?" "Absolutely," Harmon said. "One thing I want to make clear that I've noticed has been confusing some people is that Mora is not a witch... yet. Mora is a sweet young girl who will become not merely a witch, but the most powerful witch—and not only the most powerful witch but the most ruthless witch. She is not a nasty little girl at all, she is quite a loving young girl."

"Getting back to the dark edge—yes, at times the story will be very dark. As Mora grows older and matures, the stories will as well. The story will have dark moments and violent moments but that doesn't mean there will be a ton of blood, guts, and nudity later on. My series may not be an all-ages series, but there will never be stuff in it that will make you feel the need to snatch it out of a kid's hands—at least, I don't think so."

"I was a mature reader as a kid and through out school, so I was reading adult books at a fairly young age; as a result sort of always resented things targeted for young audiences. I would like to see some young readers checking out the series if they can handle mature themes—mature in a more conceptual sense than anything else."

Surprisingly, *Mora* is Harmon's first comic. "I really don't have much background in comics out-

side of my extensive study of the medium. I went through hundreds of pages and dozens of stories just to get comfortable drawing comics. I hooked up with Image by contacting Erik Larsen and showing him my work; we finally him at the last Comic-Con."

"Mora is the only comics project I'm working on right now, although I may do some short stories and pieces here and there. I am working on something very special right now with some friends and fellow new Image creators," Harmon said.

Mora #1, a \$2.95 comic, is scheduled for late February release.

INS & OUTS

THE BON ALIMAGNO, who has been tapped as Harris Comics' Editorial Director, replacing outgoing Editor-in-Chief Maureen McTigue. "Bon's been a vital part of Harris for a while now," says Executive Publisher Jonathan Rhingold. "He has a passion for comics that will lead our characters and publications in exciting directions." Harris is best known for *Vampirella*, the series starring the seductive vampire originally created for Warren Comics in 1970.

"*Vampirella*'s got a loyal following. I've seen their devotion and we're going to do everything we can to reward them with some kick-ass comics and magazines," Alimagno said. "Our guiding principle will be to produce the best work possible, whether they're from legendary creators or the rising stars of the industry. It'll be a great ride!"

OUT *DNAGENTS* and *Crossfire*, both of which were initially scheduled for comprehensive multi-volume reprinting from Nat Gertler's About Comics. Unfortunately, the first volume of each series will also be the last volume; the second volumes, announced for January and March respectively, will not be released. "As much as I like the material and am pleased with the positive reviews it generated, the decision came down to simple dollars and cents," Gertler said. "The orders for *Crossfire* Volume 1—which I thought was a particularly nice-looking book—and *DNAGENTS* Volume 2 made it clear that these reprints were not going to be profitable."

OUT Following recent trends, a number of best-selling comics have sold out recently; no word yet on any plans for additional printings unless otherwise noted. The sellout list includes:

• *Identity Crisis* #2 second printing

• *Identity Crisis* #4

• *Identity Crisis* #6

• *Teen Titans* #18

• *New Avengers* #1 first printing (a second printing was announced before the first printing had come off the presses, an expanded *Director's Cut* is slated for release at about the same time as this issue of CSN, and a third printing is likely at press-time)

IN *Gail Simone*, who has signed up to remain in the DC camp for two more years. Simone, best known for her work on *Birds of Prey*, has extended her exclusive agreement with DC. "There are a ton of great reasons to work for DC: the characters, the management, footcubs from *Greg Rucka*, *Dan DiDio*'s fabulous slumber parties, the editors, and the attention to quality and detail all spring to mind," Simone said. "Seriously, I think DC's commitment to the readers is unequalled. They have management you can believe in, exceptional editors like *Joan Hilty* and *Mike Carlin* and *Stephen Wacker*, and a proven commitment to excellence." Simone is also working on an upcoming story arc for *JLA Classified*.

"Gail brings a truly distinctive voice to the DCU, and we're thrilled to have her on board," *Dan DiDio*, VP - Executive Editor, DCU, added. "We see Gail as a star, and we believe that the projects she'll be working on over the next two years will reflect this."

OUT DC Direct's *Batman MicroMan: Catwoman Action Figure*, which was produced in Japan and imported by DC in a very limited edition, has been allocated by DC. As a result, stores that ordered more than one of the figures received only half their orders—so if you're having trouble finding the *Feline Fatale*, you know why!

HANEY PASSES

The comics industry has lost another pioneering veteran with the passing of *Bob Haney* on November 25th at the age of 78; *Haney* died as the result of complications from a stroke.

Haney's career began in the latter days of the Golden Age when he began writing for a variety of companies, including *Fawcett*, *Fox*, *Harvey*, *Hillman*, *Quality*, *Ziff-Davis*, *Dell*, and *St. John*. He came into his own as a writer for DC in the Silver Age, though, producing stories for *All-*



American Men of War, *Star Spangled War Stories*, *Blackhawk*, *Tomahawk*, *Suicide Squad*, and *Our Army at War*. But it was Haney's distinctive voice and vision regarding the superhero field that brought him to prominence; for DC, he created *Eclipse* and

Metamorpho—a strange anti-hero and a misfit hero who would trade it all to become human again, respectively. His most lasting creation was *Teen Titans*, a group comprised of DC's teen sidekicks; the concept, which launched in *Brave & Bold*, went on to become a popular part of the DC line, and has found new life in the 1980s and again in the past few years. Haney also wrote a number of team-up stories for *Brave & Bold*.

For those of us who were reading comics in the height of the Silver Age, Haney's work for *Metamorpho* and *Teen Titans* was particularly distinctive; he brought a clever, sometimes campy,



irreverence to his storytelling. At the same time, he borrowed some of the more successful plot devices from Marvel, including the heroes-with-problems angle that was so prominent in *Metamorpho*, where the main character dealt with personal problems, romantic problems, and superpowers that also transformed him into a freakish humanoid figure...

Haney produced one final *Teen Titans* Elsewhere story for DC in 2002, but that tale (illustrated by Jay Stephens) has not seen print yet.

"Bob was a gentleman of eclectic interests who brought his curiosity about the world to his stories," Paul Levitz, DC's Publisher & President, said. "I grew up with his work on classic series like *Teen Titans*, for which he wrote the first several years of stories, and had the pleasure of being his editor on many war and super-hero stories. Both experiences left me with great respect and fondness for Bob."



BLACK PANTHER'S RH FACTOR

When *Black Panther* returns in a new ongoing series this February, he'll have a comics newcomer doing the storytelling. That doesn't mean that writer Reginald Hudlin is a novice by any means, however; he's made his name in film and television through his directorial work on *House Party*, *Boomerang*, and *The Bernie Mac Show*. So what attracted a successful filmmaker to comics—and specifically, to *The Black Panther*?

"It's sort of a fun, convoluted process," Hudlin told *Comic Shop Newsarama's* Ryan McLelland. "I was working with a storyboard artist named Paul Power, who—in addition to doing storyboards in Hollywood—is very well connected to the comic book community. He knows I'm a comic book fan and one day he asked me what I thought about John Romita, Jr. I thought he's a great artist and I love his work. So Paul picked up his cell phone and called John Romita, Jr. and put us on the phone together. Then a few months later I actually met John out at the San Diego Comic Con and we hit it off right away. He is just a really great guy in addition to being an amazing artist."

"In another storyboard session I was talking about how much I loved Neal Adams, so Paul Powers picked up the phone and called Neal Adams. So he put me on the phone with Neal which was exciting because he's always been a hero of mine from his work on *The Spectre*, *Batman*, and all that classic Silver Age stuff. So when I was in New York I visited Neal in his studio and I got to meet him. Neal was taken by my enthusiasm in comics and said, 'You should be working in comics!' Neal then called Joe Quesada! So the next day I sat down and had a meeting with Joe. Joe brought [Marvel editor] Axel Alonso into the meeting, so when I started pontificating about what comics needs to do and how I saw the future of comics, they actually agreed with a lot of what I was saying."

"Axel and I then started a friendship and over

the course of several months we stayed in touch. One day I was in New York again and I had a lunch with Axel and he goes, 'I can't believe you're here, this is perfect timing. We're reviving the *Black Panther* and you're the guy who has to write the book. I stated to tell him 'No, no, no I don't have time for that' and by the end of the lunch I was hard at work!"

It's not just the opportunity to work in comics that appealed to Hudlin—it's also the unfulfilled potential of the character he's working on. "One of the reasons I was so excited about doing this book is I just thought that this was one of the most exciting characters that Stan Lee & Jack Kirby ever created," Hudlin said. "The *Black Panther* was always so ahead of its time. My excitement about doing the book is to really fulfill the potential that the character always had."

So has the character ever come close to living up to his full potential? "Along the way there, have been some great renditions of the character—but it's all about taking him and bringing him into the 21st century and going where are we now as a culture and how this character should reflect that."

Hudlin is quite familiar with the character's storied history, and is pleased to have the opportunity to follow where Christopher Priest left off. "I see myself definitely adding on to what Priest did. I'm certainly a fan of Priest's run, and I think he had a lot of great innovations in his run. My plan is to take what was great about all the different renditions of the character and take it all to the next level."

Hudlin is determined to make this new series a convenient entry point for readers unfamiliar with the character's forty year history. "My attitude is this is not only someone's first issue of *Black Panther*, but this is hopefully someone's first comic book ever," he explained. "So even though we all know these decades of continuity, I wanted to write a book that everything to people who don't know all that stuff. At the same time I want to take the unfulfilled potential of the character and really blow him out. So I want to retell his origin—but in a way that it has never been told before."

"When I went back and looked at the old *Fantastic Four* issues that introduced the *Black Panther*, his origin was basically told in two pages. I said, 'well, that's not enough,' he said with a laugh. "When I was meeting with Axel for lunch that day and he was pitching me his take on the character and what the book should be, I was vehemently disagreeing. I told him how the book should go; a part of it came from the basic tenets of the character."

"The basic tenet of the character is that there is this African nation named Wakanda and they have this amazing super-science. So I said, 'why do they have this amazing super-science?' They have it because they were always more advanced than the rest of the world. Now that's not such a farfetched notion, because it's historically true that there are certain African tribes that had metal alloys while people in Britain were still living in caves."

"So let's build off that historical truth that you have people that were scientifically far advanced than the rest of the world and that head start was never broken. They kept their lead and they kept moving faster than the rest of the world in terms of scientific growth."

"So you say, 'how could they pull that off, because all of Africa has been colonized in one way or another by the Dutch or the French or the British or Arab traders?' The only way these people wouldn't have been colonized by one group or the other is if they were such a fierce warrior culture, that they basically whupped the ass of anyone who tries to invade them!"

"I wanted this origin story to establish those notions: that they're scientifically advanced culture, they're a fierce warrior culture, and that the *Black Panther* is the epitome of those two ideas. Because of this incredible scientific advancement, every fifty to a hundred years people want to invade them, because their resources are so rich—not to mention the Vibranium. So what we have here is the latest invasion story. It also gives us a chance to establish how tough the Panther is. When you see how big and expansive the invasion force is you just go 'Whoa!', this is a real fight

Black Panther's got here."

Don't presume that African political struggles are going to be the focus of this book, though. "When I turned in the first story arc and we started talking about this going beyond a limited series into an ongoing the other thing I really wanted to see was Marvel's black superheroes interacting with each other. I've always appreciated the fact that Marvel has always been an industry leader in terms of having a wide range of black characters, and that they were all distinctively black but all very different people. *Black Panther* is very different than Luke Cage, who is very different from Blade, who is very different from Storm."

"So you've got this very large repertoire of characters but we've never seen interplay with those characters much. Not that they've never been together in the same book but I wanted to bring a unique black perspective to that interplay. I really wanted to do the second arc almost as a buddy movie with *Black Panther* and Luke Cage. In my mind it's sort of like Ice Cube and Denzel Washington hanging out. Two cool guys but two very different types of cool and them going on a grand adventure around the world where they're kicking ass while meeting beautiful women. That's what it seems like I would do if I were a superhero!"

"So over the course of that we'll be meeting the wide range of characters, both black and non-black, in those subsequent six issues. Everyone from Shang-Chi to Blade to Photon to the X-Men, miscellaneous Avengers... we really want to establish the *Black Panther's* place in the Marvel Universe."

Black Panther #1, a \$2.99 comic by Hudlin and John Romita Jr., is scheduled for early February release.

TRANSFORMERS FAN EXPECT THE BEAST —AND THE GET IT!

When Dreamwave Studios asked *Transformers* readers what they wanted to see in *Transformers* comics in 2005, the results were quite clear. "*Beast Wars* was able to beat out *Robots In Disguise* by an overwhelming 80%," Dreamwave publisher Candice Chan said. With numbers like that, Dreamwave's publishing plan was clear: 2005 is the year of *Transformers: Beast Wars*!

According to Dreamwave President and artist Pat Lee, Dreamwave had completely sold out of the *Transformers Summer Special*, which marked the first appearance of *Beast Wars*. "We had great reviews especially on *Beast Wars*," Lee told *Comic Shop Newsarama's* Benjamin Ong Pang Kean. "It was great for fans since they got a glimpse of an array of *Transformers* titles that we have never published before."

Beast Wars is written by *Transformers* veteran Simon Furman, who is joined by artist Don Figueroa and colorist Espen Grundtjern. "This is a team that is very strong, very knowledgeable and has been working on *Transformers* for a long time. This is our A-Team," Lee said.

Furman offered some background on the series, which is set three hundred years after the Great War on Cybertron has come to an end. "Due to a scarcity of energon, the two new factions, Maximals and Predacons (replacing, respectively, the Autobots and Decepticons) downsize to a new, energon-efficient size and form an uneasy



alliance. But rogue Predacon general, Megatron (adopting the name of the former Decepticon leader) vows to carry on the battle for Cybertron, and to this end he steals a Golden Disk that reveals the location of a planet rich in energon. A Maximal vessel, captained by Optimus Primal, is sent to intercept, and follows Megatron's stolen ship back in time (via a Transwarp portal) to pre-historic Earth. Unable to function normally, due to the exceptionally high concentrations of energon in the atmosphere, both Maximals and Predacons are forced to adopt new, largely organic beast modes. And so, the *Beast Wars* begin...

"The comic is set immediately after *Nemesis Part Two*, the final episode of the *Beast Wars* TV series, moments after the Maximals—victorious at last, having prevented Megatron's increasingly insane attempts to rewrite history and fashion a Cybertron ruled solely by the Predacons—lift off in a shuttlecraft 'borrowed' from the Autobots' crash-landed G1 spacecraft, the Ark, with Megatron their captive, magno-clamped to the hull. But, unknown to any of them, another Predacon has already arrived on *Beast Wars* Earth, with a terrifying plan to exploit the situation and raise a new army of Predacon warriors."

"We'll be keeping the core characters (Optimus Primal, Megatron, Rhinox, Cheetor, Blackarachnia, Silverbolt and Rattrap front and center), but we'll also be introducing a whole new cast of toy characters that never made it into the TV show. Key among these are Magmatron, Razorbeast, Optimus Minor and Wolfgang, but there'll be a whole host of others, including the mysterious 'mutants'. And expect some big, big surprises and returns, from *Beast Wars*... and G1!"

"Magmatron, a new Predacon warrior-general, takes center stage. His target is the remaining (scattered) Stasis Pods (ejected from the Maximal ship in the first season of the *Beast Wars* TV show), which contain Maximal protoforms (the raw, distilled matter of Transformer life). He wants them... all of them. And what's more, he intends to make very sure there are no survivors from the original *Beast Wars*!"



"The *Beast Wars* show was intricately tied in to the whole G1 mythos, and the Dreamwave comic will be continuing that tradition," Furman continued. "Of course, it'll be the Dreamwave G1 continuity, but pains will be taken to ensure that everything that is done in the comic is faithful (and indeed provides new depth and background) to the TV show. In an effort to make sure I get everything just right, *Beast Wars* TV series consultant Benson Yee is acting as script consultant on the comic book. Ben's been very, very helpful already. His knowledge of the TV show—and indeed all things *Transformers*—is beyond encyclopedic."

Beast Wars is just the beginning of what promises to be a big year for Dreamwave. "We plan to start up the year with *Beast Wars*, of course, as well as we have an interest in putting out another *Transformers/G.I. Joe* series, since this series has been doing consistently well for Dreamwave. We're also looking at some older *Transformers* titles that fans don't expect Dreamwave to bring to the table for next year. There is one specific *Transformers* project that we will be announcing soon as well that I'm extremely excited about because Don and I get to work on all the covers; unfortunately, I have to keep it very hush right now, but look out for some news on our 2005 *Transformers* line-up coming soon," Lee concluded.

Transformers: Beast Wars #1 is scheduled for release in February 2005.



COMING COMICS DC IN MARCH

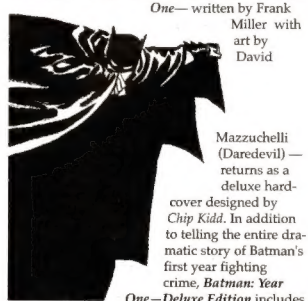
Doomsday and Gog attack Superman in the middle of a deserted Metropolis in the extra-sized *Action Comics #825* by J.D. Fenn, Ivan Reis, & Marc Campos. But will one of these villains turn and save Superman from destruction? Plus, the true origin of Gog is revealed!

The identity of the Red Hood is revealed in *Batman #638*, by Judd Winick, Doug Mahnke, & Tom Nguyen. With the murderous Black Mask controlling the Gotham City underworld, what role will this villainous addition to Batman's Rogues Gallery have when all is said and done?

Batman's always gotten some pretty great coverage—and some pretty great covers! Now DC celebrates sixty-five years of great Bat-covers with *Batman: Cover to Cover*, a 240-page hardcover that spotlights over 250 of the best Batman covers of all time. Organized by theme, readers can see the Batman Family, Fearsome Foes, Death Traps, Bizarre Settings and much, much more in this lavish collection culled from the Dark Knight's exploits from the 30's through the 21st century! Commentary on personal favorites is provided by *Batman Begins* director Christopher Nolan, TV's first Batman Adam West, the voice of the Joker Mark Hamill, as well as comic book creators Neil Gaiman, Alex Ross, Brad Meltzer, Mark Waid, Jeph Loeb, Brian Bolland, Paul Levitz, Sheldon Moldoff, Jim Lee, Jim Aparo, Neal Adams, Jerry Robinson and

many more! And artists—heck, it's a veritable comic book who's who in here, with work by Neal Adams, Brian Bolland, John Cassaday, Darwyn Cooke, Alan Davis, Dick Giordano, Michael Golden, Carmine Infantino, Dave Johnson, J.G. Jones, Michael Wm. Kaluta, Bob Kane, Gil Kane, Joe Kubert, Jim Lee, David Mazzucchelli, Scott McDaniel, Ed McGuinness, Mike Mignola, Frank Miller, Jerry Robinson, Alex Ross, Tim Sale, Walter Simonson and others

One of the most important and critically acclaimed Batman adventures ever, *Batman: Year*



One—written by Frank Miller with art by David

Mazzucchelli (Daredevil)—returns as a deluxe hardcover designed by Chip Kidd. In addition to telling the entire dramatic story of Batman's first year fighting crime, *Batman: Year*

One—Deluxe Edition includes

new introductions by Miller and Mazzucchelli, loads of reproductions of original pencils, promotional art, unseen Mazzucchelli Batman art, Richmond Lewis's color samples, script pages and other surprises.

Beaten, burned and on the brink of annihilation, Batgirl finds herself caught between life and death, facing the friend she thought she'd never see again: Spoiler! Find out what happens next in *Batgirl #62* by Andersen Gabrych, Ale Garza, & Jesse Delgado.

You may have thought Jason Blood was a man possessed by Etrigan the Demon, but *Blood of The Demon*, a new ongoing monthly series written by John Byrne & Will Pfeifer with art by Byrne & Bud LaRosa—reveals a whole lot more about their "blood bond" than anyone ever realized! Etrigan is on a rampage in Gotham City, where a nameless villain needs him to open a portal to another dimension...and will torture Jason Blood endlessly to make Etrigan his slave! All the rules have changed! Expect pandemonium and mayhem as Etrigan, loyal to no one, takes on otherworldly foes in the first battle of an all-out war!

Guest creators Matteo Casali & Brad Walker join inker Jimmy Palmiotti for *Catwoman #41*. Catwoman realizes a string of murdered prostitutes in the East End are illegal immigrants from Brazil. But will she become a target?

Have you been wondering what DC could do in 2005 to top the success—and excitement—of *Identity Crisis*? Well, the next major event begins in March with *DC Countdown #1*, an eighty-page spectacular bargain-priced at only \$1.00. This book is written by three of DC's most successful writers—Geoff Johns, Greg Rucka, & Judd Winick—with art by Rags Morales, Ed Benes, Ivan Reis, Phil Jimenez, & Jesus Saiz, each of whom pencils a chapter of the story that follows a member of the JLA through a mystery that touches on nearly every character in the DCU! Jim Lee & Alex Ross join forces to provide the cover art for this mega-event which DC describes as: "an essential project that features nearly every major character operating in the DC Universe. It's a project that will resonate for months to come and is a perfect jumping-on point for readers who've been wondering what could be coming up next. The *Countdown* starts here...and the clock is ticking..."

People of Gotham City are going insane, and only Robin can save the innocents! So what's causing it? Find out in Part Four of *David Lapham & Ramon Bachs' "City of Crime" in Detective #804*. Plus, Batman hunts Mr. Freeze while some of Gotham's villains begin plotting together.

Metamorpho guest-stars in *Doom Patrol #1* by John Byrne & Doug Hazlewood. While the Chief seeks to cure Metamorpho of his uncontrollable powers, Nudge and Vortex continue their quest to rescue Grunt from his captors and end up on the run from the authorities.

After a one-month break, the Angel returns in March with *Fallen Angel #19* by Peter David,

David Lopez, & Fernando Blanco, with a cover by George Pérez. And she's not alone, either—she has a pair of surprising guest-stars! The duo of Sachs and Viols—born from the miniseries by David & Pérez—have hit Bête Noire, and they have the Fallen Angel in their sights!

There's a "Rogue War" coming—and it stars in *Flash #220*, by Geoff Johns, Howard Porter, & Livesay. This five-parter has the Flash caught in a battle between the "good" Rogues and the "bad"! As James Jesse prepares his team to enter Keystone City to finally bring Captain Cold to justice, the new Captain Boomerang and the Rogues take the battle to them!

Hal Jordan's redemption comes to fruition in *Green Lantern: Rebirth #6* by Geoff Johns, Ethan Van Sciver, & Prentiss Hollins. The heroes of the DCU are split, and it may mean doom for some...unless Hal Jordan can accomplish what many believe impossible and lead them to victory! It all leads into this summer's new *Green Lantern* ongoing series by Johns and all-star artist Carlos Pacheco.

Ben Raab, Justiniano, & Walden Wong offer readers a chance to join *The Human Race* in March. This seven-issue limited series focuses on the super-powered fraternity of Delta Chi Delta, which is charged with a mission: to protect the genetic code of the human race from any outside interference. But when a young man's entire hometown is invaded by an alien force, the threat of a global mutation compels him to join the group—especially when he manifests strange powers of his own!

The Invisible Kid finds himself at a crossroads in *Legion of Super-Heroes #4* by Mark Waid and guest artists Leonard Kirk & Mick Gray. A hero is defined by the choices he makes—but not everyone is cut out to be a hero. Just ask the Invisible Kid, whose fateful decision inadvertently costs the Legion every bit of the good will the team has earned and radically endangers its future. Plus, a second Legion adventure with art by comics legend Dave Gibbons & Gray!

Superman has been called many things, from the defender of Truth, Justice and the American way to the Big Blue Boy Scout. However, in the new five-issue miniseries *Lex Luthor: Man of Steel*, he'll be called something new—a dangerous threat to all humanity! Brian Azzarello & Lee Bermejo offer readers get a glimpse into the mind of Lex Luthor, long considered one of DC's most vile villains. Now readers will learn why Luthor chooses to be the proverbial thorn in Superman's side—simply put, to save humanity from an untrusting alien being. Or, as Azzarello himself puts it, "In this story, Superman is the villain."

Dick Grayson and Jason Todd hit the town together for the first time in *Nightwing #105*, part five of "Nightwing: Year One" by Chuck Dixon, Scott Beatty, Scott McDaniel, & Andy Owens. The former Robin and the newly appointed Robin are running the gauntlet in Gotham, left to track down Two-Face and discover who's gunned down the Batman! Then, in *Nightwing #106*, it's up to Dick Grayson to rescue a kidnapped Alfred from the clutches of Killer Croc. And when the



dust settles, Nightwing must deal with the one man who may not want him around: Batman!

Arsenal takes on Batman in *Outsiders #22* by Judd Winick & Carlos D'Anda. When Roy learns that someone on the team has betrayed them, he confronts the Dark Knight to learn the truth. And what he finds out might not be what he bargained for...

Robin faces a sepulchral figure on a horse made of living shadow in *Robin #136*. So is Tim Drake following Jason Todd into oblivion? Not if he can help it—but he is about to confront the deadly assassin known as The Dark Rider, courtesy of Bill Willingham, Pop Mahn, & Sandra Houte.

Grant Morrison's massive thirty-part *Seven Soldiers of Victory* saga continues in March with *Seven Soldiers: Guardian #1* (illustrated by Cameron Stewart) and *Seven Soldiers: Shining Knight #1* (with art by Simone Bianchi). In *Guardian #1*, readers meet a new hero who's the living mstead of the *Manhattan Guardian* newspaper. After the accidental shooting of a child that resulted in his handing over his badge, ex-cop Jim Harper tries to get his life in gear by applying for the job of The Guardian after spending more than a year dealing with personal demons. But Jim quickly learns to be careful what he wishes for, as the new Guardian finds himself in a pitched battle with Subway Pirates! And you can look for something very different in *Shining Knight*, which DC describes as "*The Lord of the Rings* meets *The O.C.*" Though twilight and red ruin falls on Camelot, the Knights of the Broken Table stand ready to battle the forces of the Beyond. Little do they realize that the only one within their spent and bloodied ranks who can save what remains of their world is sixteen-year-old Sir Justin, a teenaged warrior who, with his winged horse Victory, finds himself thrust into the maddening world of the 21st century to save the future of all mankind.

Superman faces off against the menace responsible for the disappearance in *Superman #215*, the final installment of Brian Azzarello, Jim Lee, & Scott Williams' epic "For Tomorrow." And in order to restore order, he's going to have to do more than face off against the enemy—he'll have to destroy him!

Jeph Loeb is joined by guest artists Ian Churchill & Norm Rapmund for a standalone tale in *Superman/Batman #19*. Now that Kara Zor-El has accepted her role as Supergirl, what will she do with it? And just how powerful is she? How will her life impact Batman and Superman? This issue is the starting point of an incredible journey that will lead to bigger things for Supergirl—hang on tight!

DC collected editions for March include: *Batman Chronicles Volume One TP*, the first book in a series that will reprint Batman's adventures from the very beginning of his career in chronological order; the first volume includes

Batman stories from *Detective* #s 27-37 and *Batman* #1, and future volumes will reprint stories from these series as well as World's Finest and other titles:

• **Batman: Tales of the Demon TP (New Edition)**, a 196-page compilation of Ra's al Ghul stories by Dennis O'Neil, Neal Adams, Ivo Novick, Dick Giordano, and others;

• **Comic Cavalcade Archives Volume One HC** by Gardner Fox, William Marston, Bill Finger, Ted Uhl, Irvin Hansen, Harry G. Peter, Frank Goldwin, Sheldon Moldoff, & others, reprinting the Golden Age *Comic Cavalcade* #s 1-3 featuring Wonder Woman, Flash, Green Lantern, Wildcat, Mutt & Jeff, Hop Harrigan, and others;

• **ElQuest Archives Volume Two**, a hardcover compilation of Wendy & Richard Pini's original *ElQuest* #s 6-10, along with a bonus tale from *Epic Illustrated*;

• **JLA: Pain of the Gods**, a trade paperback compilation of the *Chuck Austen-Ron Farnley* tales from *JLA* #s 101-106;

• **Majestic: Strange New Visitor**, collecting the Dan Abnett-Andy Lanning-Karl Kersch storylines from *Action* #811, *Adventures of Superman* #624, & *Superman* #201 as well as the four-issue limited series that returned Majestic to the WildStorm Universe;

• **Starman: Sons of the Father**, reprinting James Robinson & Peter Snejbjerg's final issues of the series;

• **Superman/Batman: Public Enemies**, a softcover edition collecting the first six issues of *Superman/Batman* by Loeb, McGuinness, & Vines; and

• **Superman: For Tomorrow Volume One**, a hardcover collection of *Superman* #204-209 by Azzarello, Lee, & Williams.

COMING COMICS

2000AD•DC IN MARCH

Judge Dredd's war with his most deadly adversary is the focus of *Judge Dredd: Dredd Vs. Death*, collecting classic tales by John Wagner, Alan Grant, & Brian Bolland. These beautifully illustrated stories helped establish Bolland's reputation as one of comics' greatest artists! When Judge Death comes to Mega-City One, it will take all of



Dredd's ingenuity, not to mention the help of Psi-Judge Cassandra Anderson, to stop him!

He's a lover, adventurer, gambler...and too cool to kill Nikolai Dante in *Nikolai Dante: The Great Game* by Robbie Morrison, Charlie Adlard, Andy Clarke, & Simon Fraser, fighting and drinking a path of mayhem and glory across future Russia!

Young barbarian Slaine Mac Roth, master of the "warp-spasm," is the star of *Slaine: Warrior's Dawn* by Pat Mills, Angie Kincaid, Massimo Belardinelli, & Mike McMahon. These sword-and-sorcery adventures chronicle the exploits of Slaine



as he channels the mystical power of the Earth to become a monstrous berserker!

COMING COMICS CMX•DC IN MARCH

High school is hard for Kayano. When she tries to confess her love to the kind but distant Yuichi, the school bully Takeru makes her life hell. But things get worse when Kayano's mother gets engaged to Takeru's father, the school principal! How will she cope with having the devil himself living in her own home? Find out in *The Devil Does Exist Volume One* by Takanashi Mitsuba.

Kasche may have a talent for controlling beasts, but she's got a lot to learn about self-control before she can become a full-fledged summoner. When disaster strikes, her principal chooses her to avert it. Joined by an unusual crew of allies both human and not, Kasche must recapture the relic from an evil summoner before he can use it to unlock the ancient Encyclopedia Verum and call up the most powerful monsters ever seen in *Monster Collection Volume One* by Itoh Sei.

In the late-medieval land of Barnard, between the mountains and sea, the peaceful lifestyle of the people has been shattered by fear. Monsters known as the Dark Ones roam the land, killing indiscriminately. In this world, one man has built a reputation as an especially fierce monster-killer. Many try to hire him for his superior skills, but Leroy has his own agenda. He has a mission to accomplish, a vow to fulfill. See him in action in *Sword of the Dark Ones Volume One* by Kotobuki Tsukasa.

COMING COMICS HUMANOID•DC IN MARCH

Christian Perrissin & Boro Pavlovic present a modern-day *Heart of Darkness* in *El Nino*. With an international backdrop of civil wars, kidnappings and modern pirates, *El Nino* follows the odyssey of Vera, a young Red Cross delegate who goes in search of a brother whose existence she had ignored!

Stefano Raffaele presents a thrilling post-apocalyptic zombie love story in *Fragile*! While on the run from zombie hunters, Alan finds the beautiful



but decomposing girl of his dreams. Can they "live" again via an experimental serum?

Set during the early 1900s in New York, Philippe Thirault, Marc Riou, & Mark Vigouroux's *Miss Better Living Through Crime* tells the tale of two unlikely partners in crime, Nola and Slim. Nola is a poor white girl who has learned to survive by hook or by crook since being expelled from an orphanage. Slim is a black pimp with an uncertain past, trying to keep one foot out of the grave. When their paths cross and their options run out, Nola and Slim forge a partnership as murderers for hire.

COMING COMICS WILDSTORM IN MARCH

Jason Pearson & Ed Brubaker focus on former Black Ops member Nataly Lakota, AKA Redbird, in *The Razor's Edge: Redbird*, a five-issue limited series. Following an escape from a government hospital, Nataly disappeared into America, turning up as a mild-mannered apartment manager in Inglewood, California. She's trying to piece her life back together amidst drug dealers and gang wars while confronting the issues that had her confined to a government hospital in the first place—namely, a mission gone awry in Guatemala that saw her entire command slaughtered. But she's got enough problems just trying to keep the complex in one piece and the honest residents safe. As if that weren't enough, the govern-



ment has also dispatched a killer to bring Redbird back... alive or dead...

WildStorm collected editions for March include:

• **Planetary Book Three: Leaving the 20th Century TP**, a softcover collection of Warren Ellis & John Cassaday's *Planetary* #s 13-18;

• **Promethea Book Four**, a trade paperback collection of Alan Moore, J.H. Williams III, & Mick Gray's *Promethea* #s 19-25;

• **Sleeper Book Three: A Crooked Line**, collecting Ed Brubaker & Sean Phillips' *Sleeper* Season Two #s 1-6; and

• **Tom Strong's Terrific Tales Volume Two HC**, collecting #s 7-12 of the acclaimed anthology series by Alan Moore, Steve Moore, Arthur Adams, Bruce Timm, and others.

COMING COMICS VERTIGO•DC IN MARCH

Giuseppe Camuncoli & Lorenzo Ruggiero supply the art for Mike Carey's standalone tale in *Hellblazer* #206. After his demon kids wipe out his friends and family, John prepares for a high-stakes ritual that he hopes will repair some of the damage. But when he asks Chas for help, his old friend goes on a rampage.

Phil Jimenez & Andy Lanning bring elements of *Lost*, *Survivor*, *The Matrix*, and *Lord of the Rings* to play in their twelve-part maxiseries *Otherworld*. Picture a world at war with itself. An idyllic, pastoral land populated by mythological

beings that battle endlessly with a nation-state made of pure technology. Into this maelstrom is thrust a group of young people—some friends, some strangers—plucked violently from Earth and imbued with superpowers. One in particular, Siobhan Moynihan—is an aspiring singer and college student—is told she's the savior who will either end the war and save the Otherworld...or destroy it forever.

With Swamp Thing struggling to make sense of his shattered life and Houma recovering from all the horrors of its past spilling up from the depths of Hell, a strange "preacher" appears, offering a macabre salvation to the town's people. Find out what his true agenda is in "Measure of



Faith," a two-parter by Joshua Dysart & Timothy Green II that begins in *Swamp Thing* #13.

Vertigo collected editions for March include:

- **100%**, collecting the five-issue limited series by Paul Pope, adding character sketches, designs, and other material from the mix; and
- **Fables: The Mean Seasons**, collecting Bill Willingham's *Fables* #s 22 & 28-33.

COMING FROM DC DIRECT

Sculptors Tim Bruckner & Tony Cipriano take Michael Turner's art into the third dimension in their *Flash Vs. Gorilla Grodd Statue*. In this sculpture, the contemporary Flash stands triumphant over his arch-nemesis Gorilla Grodd. This limited-edition, hand-painted cold-cast porcelain statue measures approximately 12" tall; look for it in July.

DC Direct kicks off a line of *Kingdom Come* statues with Tony Cipriano's *Kingdom Come: Superman, Hawkman, & Red Robin Statue*, based on the incomparable art of Alex Ross. This statue features Ross's striking visions of an older Superman, more bestial Hawkman, and an adult Robin! This July-release limited-edition, hand-painted cold-cast porcelain statue measures approximately 6.75" tall and is limited to only 2500 pieces.

John G. Matthews offers a maquette based on the



Superman, Batman, and Wonder Woman join together in Jim Lee & Scott Williams' *Classic Icons of the DC Universe Poster*. Start clearing wall space now, because the poster's coming in July! The ultra-popular Kara Zor-El is spotlighted



- *Foster's Home for Imaginary Friends Statue*
- *Featuring Blossie, Mac, & Eduardo;*
- *Powerpuff Girls Maquettes, including Blossom, Buttercup, Bubbles, & Mojo Jojo;*
- *The Powerpuff Girls Movie Scene Statue;*
- *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law Maquette;*
- *Samurai Jack: Training Progression Statue;*
- *Samurai Jack Aku Maquette;*
- *Samurai Jack Vs. the BeetleBot Maquette;*
- *Space Ghost Coast to Coast: Zorak Maquette;*
- *Space Ghost Coast to Coast: Brak Maquette;*

"This is the magazine I always want to find when I hit the racks, but don't," Wood said. "Great modern illustrators, extended folios—no single illustrations here! Lots of pictures, that's what *Swallow* is about, period!"

Interview conducted by Charles Brownstein



Star Wars history is about to be made as the second trilogy wraps up in the spring of 2005. That's why Dark Horse is presenting *Star Wars:*



Tony Millionaire spins another yarn for his ever-popular Sock Monkey in the appropriately-entitled *Tony Millionaire's Sock Monkey In That Darn Yarn*, a forty-page hardcover that contains two stories in one. On the right-hand side is a story about a sock monkey getting his foot snagged on a tack as he's going down the stairs. As he rambles around Ann Louise's Victorian house, he unravels. On the left-hand page is a story about Ann Louise finding a ball of yarn and beginning to knit a sock monkey. The stories merge as the book unfolds and the adventure develops.

Desperate Housewives January series is perfect for *Crossed* fans

Santaro, sworn to uphold the code of the warrior. Now he faces his greatest challenge: clearing his father's name. He must travel to Seattle, where corporations have replaced clans and greed has won out over honor.

• **BREACH #1** 1/5 DC NOV040266 \$2.95
Bob Harras makes his DC debut with this series illustrated by Marcos Martin & Alvaro Lopez. This special extra-sized premiere issue introduces the next great hero of the DCU - or perhaps its next great threat! At heart, Major Tim Porter is just a man torn between conscience and duty. But nothing could have prepared him to lose decades from his life and most of his humanity. Now the man known as Breach has awakened, and the world is definitely not ready for him or the threat he represents.

• **CLIVE BARKER'S THIEF OF ALMIGHTY VOL 1** IDW NOV042748 \$7.49
Kris Oprisko & Gabriel Hernandez adapt the fantasy saga by Clive Barker. Mr. Hood's Holiday House has stood for a thousand years, welcoming countless children into its embrace. It is a place of miracles, a blissful round of treats and seasons, where every childhood wish may be satisfied... for a price.

• **COMBAT ZONE: TRUE TALES OF GYS IN IRAQ #1** 1/5 Marvel NOV041776 \$2.99
Karl Zinsmeister & Dan Jurgens spotlight three months in the lives of the 82nd Airborne in the Battle for Fallujah.

• **CONSTANTINE MOVIE ADAPTATION 1** 5 Vertigo/DC NOV040328 \$6.95
Film adaptation by Steven T. Seagle, Ron Randall, & Jimmy Palmiotti

• **DOODITY #1** 12 Illusive NOV042767 \$5.00
Dorothy Gale, 16 years old and frustrated by life in Kansas, discovers that running away can lead you down strange roads. Created with a rare combination of digital photography, 3-D effects and live actors.

• **FF #1** 1/9 CCA NOV042850 \$14.95
Human interest drama-suspense by Anthony Johnston & Matthew Loew

• **FANTASTIC FOUR: FIVES #1** 1/5 Marvel NOV041801 \$2.99
Get inside the heads of all your favorite FF foes as we watch their capers from start to finish from their perspective

• **FOUR LETTER WORLDS** 1/26 Image NOV041533 \$12.95
Four-Letter Worlds examines how hate, fear, love, and fate as interpreted by 26 renowned creators, including Joe Casey, Chynna Clugston-Major, Anthony Johnston, Phil Hester, Jim Mahfood, Scott Morse, and Andi Watson

• **FREEDOM FORCE #1** 1/19 Image NOV041534 \$2.95
Arriving on Earth in the year 1962, the mysterious Mentor enlists the aid of the patriotic Minuteman, the fiery El Diablo and the melancholy Main-Bot to hunt down the Soviet super-spy, Nuclear Winter. But can even the combined might of these four brave heroes stop the frigid felon before he unleashes the power of the atom on an unsuspecting Patriot City?

• **FUTURAMA/SIMPSONS: CROSSOVER CRISIS PART 2 #1** Bongo NOV042510 \$2.99
With the brittle fabric between reality and fiction stretched beyond its limits, the entire citizenry of Springfield finds itself trapped in New York City a thousand years in the future.

• **GRIMMACK: KILLER INSTINCT #1** IDW NOV042749 \$3.99
At last, Grimmack returns to the ever-shifting city of Cynosure, and creators John Ostrander and Timothy Truman reunite to tell the tale! There's a freight in The Pill and Grimmack is in the middle of the conflagration. His friends at Cadre have hired a beautiful vampire assassin to take him out. How does Grimmack save his neck - and who winds up in possession of Munden's Bar, the nexus of all realities?

• **HELLBLAZER: ALL HIS ENIGMAS NO 1** 19 Vertigo/DC OCT040358 \$24.95
128-page original hardcover graphic novel by Mike Carey & Leonard Maltin scheduled to launch with the release of the upcoming Warner Bros. Pictures film Constantine. When a mysterious worldwide plague puts millions of people into deadly comas - including Chas Chandler's granddaughter, Tricia - Earth's foremost expert on the bizarre, John Constantine, steps in with the cure!

• **INDESTRUCTIBLE VOL 1 TP** 1/12 Dark Horse OCT040039 \$12.95
Is Dr. Watson the Whitechapel Killer? It's up to the Baker Street Irregulars to prove his innocence

• **JACK HUNTER/ALL SPY PREVIEW** Atomika NOV042431 \$1.99
Matt Haley illustrates this WWII spy thriller chronicling the perilous pursuits of America's first official secret agent

• **LIONS, TIGERS, & BEARS #1** 1/26 Image NOV041536 \$2.95
Joey's world is turned upside down when his mother accepts a job in a neighboring town, forcing him to move away from his friends and his loving Grandmother. But just before the moving van is ready to pull out, Grandma brings him a special gift: four new stuffed animals - a lion, two tigers and a panther - known as The Night Pride. Joey is convinced his Grandmother's stories of the Night Pride having magical powers are just that: stories. But he's about to find out his new friends are more real - and more needed - than he could have imagined

• **MAJESTIC #1** 1/12 WildStorm/DC NOV040316 \$2.95
Dan Abnett & Andy Lanning link up with hot new artist Neil Gooch to show what happens to Majestic when he returns home to the WildStorm Universe with guest stars Superman and the Eradicator in tow

• **OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE: WOMEN OF MARVEL 2005** 1/26 Marvel NOV041804 \$3.99
Includes in-depth bios on more than forty of the House's most powerful women warriors - from Anna to Vindicator

• **PIETATE #1** 1/12 Image NOV041541 \$2.95
Ori Nodoku introduces Private Eye: Boston Book. Determined to follow in his dad's footsteps and become

Portland's best private eye, Boston gives it all, but his path takes a sharp turn when he runs into a talking pig named Clyde

• **SEVENTH SUNDAY #1** 1/19 Image NOV041545 \$5.95
Adapting the short story by Robert Silverberg

• **SPIDER-MAN/HUMAN TORCH #1** 1/5 Marvel NOV041769 \$2.99
Dan Slott & Ty Templeton present five old school adventures featuring your favorite web-headed hero and his pal, the walking matchstick!

• **STORMBREAKER: THE SAGA OF BETA RAY BILL #1** 1/12 Marvel NOV041788 \$2.99
Beta Ray Bill jumps out of the pages of Thor and finds himself the sole survivor of all that was Asgard in this limited series by Michael Aton Oeming, Daniel Berman, & Andrea Di Vito

• **SUPERMAN: STRENGTH #1** 1/5 DC NOV040255 \$5.95
Scott McCloud, Alair Amancio, & Terry Austin explore the true source of Superman's strength in a three-issue prestige-format miniseries with covers by Alex Ross

• **TWO BITS #1** 1/5 Image NOV041549 \$0.25
Mike S. Miller & Hector Sevilla offer a sneak peak at two upcoming image titles. 16 pages of new material from each title for a measly quarter

• **UNDERLORDS #1** Eidolon NOV042672 \$2.95
• **UNTIL THE FULL MOON MANGA VOL 1** Broccoli Intl NOV042529 \$9.99
DREAMWAVE and Dabel Brothers Productions team up to lead us deep into Warlands' past - back to The First War of the Races

• **WYATT EARP: DODGE CITY #1** Moonstone NOV042818 \$2.95
Western adventure by Chuck Dixon & Enrique Villagran

• **X-23 #1** 1/19 Marvel NOV041762 \$2.99
Spinning out of NYX, star artist Billy Tan and the character's creator Craig Kieck kick off a new series starring X-23! New it can be told. The full story behind the origin of X-23 - who she is, where she came from, and the exact nature of her relationship to Wolverine

• **X-MEN - PHOENIX: EXOSGOS #1** 1/5 Marvel NOV041759 \$2.99
Greg Pak & Greg Land present the next chapter in the Phoenix saga. What will happen when the Phoenix returns to Earth in search of the one mortal who could ever contain its power - only to find her dead?

FANTASTIC FIRSTS (OTHER JANUARY FIRST ISSUES)

• **ALICHOIN VOL 1** 1/26 TokyoPop NOV042898 \$9.99
• **AP HOW TO DRAW MANGA: THE NEXT GENERATION #1** Antarctic NOV042668 \$4.95
Presenting exclusive art, step-by-step guides, designs, and commentary from the hottest rising stars of manga

• **APOCALYPTIC REBORN #1** 1/12 Dark Horse NOV04019 \$2.99
An asthma ridden, myopic former middle manager for a software company, has his limited survival skills continually put to the test in a post-apocalyptic world, only to continually come up short

• **ARAMA: HEART OF THE SPIDER #1** 1/19 Marvel NOV041761 \$2.99
Straight from Fantasy Fantasy, the continuing adventures of Anya Corazon, scamping theme from Brooklyn by day and by night, the butt-kicking Hunter of the ancient and mystical Spider Society

• **ATOMIKA #1 BIG ISSUE: BOJFIFERS #0** Atomika NOV042430 \$9.99
• **BAMBI VOL 1** Infinity NOV042771 \$9.95
• **BARAKA TAIL #1** Banana NOV042494 \$4.95 Avalar
• **BRIAN PULIDO'S LADY DEATH SWIMSUIT 2005** Atomika NOV042457 \$3.99
• **BURCK CITY BUNCH #1** 1/16 Urban Sequence NOV043008 \$2.95
• **CHARLTON SPOTLIGHT MAGAZINE #1** Argo NOV043082 \$6.95
Tribute to Pat Boyette

• **CHILDREN OF THE GRAVE #1** Shooting Star NOV042877 \$2.99
bWhen the military team Orphan 1 enters Stimulac looking for proof of terrorist genocide, what they discover is a supernatural mystery

• **COMICANA #1** APC NOV042389 \$3.50
Dan Boulwood brings back comic retail gurus Matt and Craig for a four-issue series

• **CRISP #1** Conspiracy NOV042562 \$2.99
Sometimes heroes aren't always attractive...

• **CRYPTOZOON CREW #1** NBM NOV042833 \$2.95
For exotic adventures the world over, join Cryptozoologist Tork Darsney, his beautiful wife Tara and a basement full of Cave Monkeys

• **BEARS VOL 1** 1/12 TokyoPop OCT042950 \$9.99
• **DR. CHADS PRESENTS AMERICAN IDOL - SUPER MEGA POP STAGE** ForceWerks NOV042715 \$2.50
• **ESCAPE AND VEGA: THE DEBS WE MAKE #1** 1/5 SSS NOV042888 \$2.95
On a manned NASA space ship millions of miles from Earth, a terrifying malfunction occurs in the cryogenic hyper-sleep pods containing the hibernating astronauts, turning most

of the crew into the violently brain-dead; a handful of outstretched astronaut's smolder intact from their artificial slumber to find themselves pitted against murderous zombies

• **FIREBREATHER SKETCHBOOK** Room NOV042519 \$9.99
• **FISHERNET ANGEL: JAKE DOE #1** 1/12 Shooting Star NOV042878 \$2.99
• **FURRY NUKIA HIGH SCHOOL: TWILIGHT #1** SEA NOV042876 \$4.99
Signed by Ostrander & Truman

• **GUNDAM SEED ASTRAY VOL 1** 1/26 TokyoPop NOV042914 \$9.99
Lowe Gear, a brilliant junk-tech mechanic, discovers a top-secret Mobile Suit in the midst of space debris and suddenly everyone is after him

• **HYPER POLICE VOL 1** 1/12 TokyoPop OCT042965 \$9.99
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